

Fraudulent Entry & Exit Stamps

Posted: December 2009

According to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in Miami, Peruvians are in the top five nationalities at airport Arrivals discovered with document fraud. They have been in the top five for the last four years. They are in the top three for backdated entry/exit stamps.

What is the purpose of an Entry & Exit Stamp?

Entry and exit stamps are used by many countries to track when and where someone entered/exited that country as well as for how long that individual was permitted to stay—and stayed.

What is a fraudulent Entry & Exit Stamp?

Entry/exit stamps can either be fake (not created by nor used by immigration officials) or can be authentic stamps but used fraudulently to reflect a false entry or exit.

What if I'm caught with a fraudulent stamp?

The U.S. Embassy Lima is aware of the prevalence of fraudulent Peruvian stamps, as are USCIS border authorities (Immigration) at the U.S. ports of entry. As a result, there is a high likelihood that individuals presenting fraudulent stamps will be caught.

There are severe consequences for the presentation of fraudulent or false entry/exit stamps to a U.S. government official. It is highly probable that your visa will be revoked and you will receive a permanent visa ineligibility, making you forever unable to enter the United States.

In most cases, Peruvians discovered with fraudulent stamps are trying to conceal a period of unlawful presence in the United States. Ironically, the visa ineligibility penalties for having been unlawfully present in the U.S. are less severe than those for presenting fraudulent stamps. So, in those cases, the persons caught made their situation far worse than it would have otherwise been.

What if I am missing a stamp that should be in my passport?

In Peru, the Immigration office at the airport can address a missing stamp. Also, one may request a *movimiento migratorio* issued by the Peruvian Migration Office--this will list recorded entries and exits from Peru.

Never seek to present fraudulent information to U.S. Government officials as the consequences of doing so will almost always lead to you being permanently barred from the United States.